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“The Alcohol Referendum is About Prosperity and the Future Of Anson County”

Anson County’s Economic Development Director John Marek speaks out about upcoming vote

This is a release from Anson County Economic Development Director John Marek: There really is no other way to say it; on November 6th, Anson voters will have the opportunity to choose which path the county will travel over the next decade and beyond. In that sense, this election may be the most important one facing our citizens in many years. A vote YES on the alcohol referendum gives my organization, AnsonEDP, the tools it needs to compete against surrounding counties for homes, stores, jobs and investment, while a NO vote condemns the residents of the county to another decade of declining population and limited financial opportunity.

So, why has this become such an important issue now? Put simply, a series of events has converged to place Anson County in an unprecedented position for growth and economic development. The opening of the Monroe Expressway, the expansion at the Port of Wilmington and the natural progression of residential and commercial growth outward from Charlotte, combined with an unusually robust national economy have created a unique window of opportunity. A vote YES signals to the development community that we are open for business; a vote NO signals that we are happy to continue down the path of stagnation and decay.

Developers have identified the area between Peachland and Marshville as prime for commercial and residential development. Over the past six months I have spoken to home builders, hoteliers, restaurant owners and retail stores about that corridor and the one thing they keep coming back to is Marshville is “wet,” Peachland is “dry.” On one particular site we visited, a matter of feet would make the difference between whether a restaurant can serve beer and wine or not, and which county the tens of thousands of dollars in annual taxes will go to.

These are important considerations for a county that has, to date, lagged badly behind its neighbors in terms of job creation, wage growth and standard of living. When I took on the job of building the county’s economy, I famously said, “There’s no reason that prosperity should stop at the Union County line,” but now I realize that isn’t quite true. On November 6th, Anson voters will choose between two very different futures; a bright tomorrow of opportunity, or a dark road to futility. Vote YES for a prosperous future.

For more information contact John B. Marek, Executive Director, AnsonEDP at 704-690-4936 or john@AnsonEDP.com.

CFNC Financial Aid Workshop for High School Seniors and Parents

The College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) will hold a financial aid workshop on Tuesday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center at Anson High School. A CFNC representative will present information about applying for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Colleges and universities use this information to determine financial aid packages for students. This year, the FAFSA application for the 2019-2020 school year will become available on October 1.

Parents will learn more about student and parent loans, work study and how to interpret financial aid award letters received from schools once their student is accepted. Seniors and their parents from Anson High School, Anson Early College, and Anson Academy are strongly encouraged to attend.

For more information contact Anson High School Counselor Janet Kendall at 704-694-9301 ext. 06411.

Artists and Crafters Sought for Christmas in November Sale

Calling all area artists and crafters! The Anson County Arts Council’s Christmas in November Art and Crafts Sale will return for its eighth year on Saturday, November 10, from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at South Piedmont Community College’s Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro.

The Arts Council offers this event as a service to the residents and creative community of Anson and surrounding counties, so admission for shoppers is free, and vendors keep 100% of their sales.

If you would like to be a part of this exciting event, contact the Anson County Arts Council at ansonart@windstream.net or at 704-694-4950. The fee for an 8-foot table is just \$45, or \$80 for two. Reserve your space today!

Batman Day Celebration at the Library

It’s that time of year again! Batman Day is coming, and the Hampton B. Allen Library will be celebrating it. The event will be held this Saturday, September 15, from 12 to 3 p.m. downstairs in the Little Theatre.

Everyone is invited come and join the Library’s fourth annual Batman Day celebration. A bat packed day is planned, with TV episodes, comics, and trivia. And, best of all, the Dark Knight himself will be there for photos and autographs.

All library programs are free for the public to attend. Please contact the library 704-694-5177 with any questions.



Flags at the Anson County Courthouse to Commemorate September 11

A commemorative display of hundreds of flags for 9-11 was organized by Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. (UWI). UWI Director Julian Swittenberg said, “We had a great group of about 20 volunteers help with this flag display. The volunteers were from the Town of Wadesboro, Young Professionals Anson, Anson Partnership for Children, Anson County Chamber of Commerce, South Piedmont Community College, the County Magistrates Office and Anson Tourism Development Authority.”

The community is invited to see this impressive sight. The display will stay until Thursday.

Photo courtesy of Julian Swittenberg

Hurricane Florence Continues to Intensify, Evacuations Have Begun in Coastal Areas

Governor Cooper urges North Carolinians to prepare for strong winds and heavy rains, evacuate when asked to

As of press time Hurricane Florence is a category 4 hurricane, and Governor Roy Cooper has urged coastal North Carolina residents, businesses and visitors not to delay preparations and to follow evacuation orders. The storm is expected to make landfall near Wilmington on Thursday with impacts starting Wednesday. By Tuesday over 1 million people from North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia had been ordered to evacuate. A category 4 hurricane can have 130 mph sustained winds that also bring dangerous flooding and storm surges.



“We face three critical threats from Florence: ocean surge along our coast, strong winds, and inland flooding from heavy rain,” Governor Cooper said. “Wherever you live in North Carolina, you need to get ready for this storm now and you need to evacuate if asked to.”

Storm preparations are underway throughout the state, and most coastal counties have ordered evacuations. In North Carolina, when to evacuate starts with a local decision because local officials know their communities and their people best. The governor urges residents to follow evacuation orders issued for their areas.

As of press time on Tuesday, the following North Carolina counties have ordered evacuations, with more anticipated:

- Bertie County – voluntary evacuation of waterfront and low-lying areas effective Wednesday, Sept 12
- Brunswick County - voluntary evacuation of unincorporated areas effective Tuesday, Sept 11; mandatory evacuation of low-lying and flood-prone areas, people in substandard or mobile homes effective Tuesday, Sept 11
- Currituck County - mandatory evacuation for Currituck Outer Banks (Corolla and Carova) effective 7am Tuesday, Sept 11
- Dare County - mandatory evacuation for Hatteras Island effective noon Monday, Sept 10; mandatory evacuation for entire county effective 7am Tuesday, Sept 11
- Hyde County - mandatory evacuation for visitors to Ocracoke effective Monday, Sept. 10; mandatory evacuation for residents to Ocracoke effective Tuesday, Sept 11
- New Hanover County - mandatory evacuation for UNCW
- Onslow County – voluntary evacuation of unincorporated areas and Surf City effective Monday, Sept 10; mandatory evacuation of Topsail Beach effective Tuesday, Sept 11

Governor Cooper led a briefing for local and state officials as well as Congressional representatives on preparations for Hurricane Florence. Gov. Cooper, NC Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry and FEMA Regional Administrator Grazia Szczech briefed the officials on evacuation status, the schedule of shelter openings and supply and heavy equipment mobilization needed for rescue and recovery.

The governor thanked the officials on the call for their diligent work in preparing areas for Hurricane Florence’s arrival, and pledged close ongoing cooperation among the state, local and federal governments in the days ahead.

“Responding to a storm of this ferocity take strong cooperation between local, state and federal government along with utilities, volunteer groups and other partners,” Gov. Cooper said. “We are praying for the best, while working together to be ready for the worst.”

Governor Cooper also took steps to ensure that the state has enough fuel for people evacuating ahead of the storm and for preparation and recovery efforts. He signed Executive Order No. 53, waiving certain fuel vapor regulations to ensure adequate supply of fuel as Hurricane Florence approaches.

The Governor’s Office also today activated North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund for donations to support North Carolina’s response to Hurricane Florence. To donate, visit www.rebuild.nc.gov.

Download the Ready NC app or follow NC Emergency Management on Facebook and Twitter for weather updates and to learn how you can prepare for the storm.

BCSWCDBM is September 18

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 18 at 10 a.m. at the BCSWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For more information call 704-694-3516.

Brown Bag Book Club Meeting to Feature John Marek, Economic Development Director & Author

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the Brown Bag Book Club meeting for Monday, September 17 in the Pritchett Room at 12:00 noon. John Marek, Economic Development Director for Anson County, will be the guest author. John is the author of four books, including the ACWC award-winning *The Bug Jar* and other stories. Everyone is invited to come, bring a covered dish and enjoy the story of John’s writing career.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Donate Blood, Get Into SCarowinds for Free!

The Community Blood Center of the Carolinas (CBCCC) is holding a Blood Drive on Friday, September 28 at Carowinds, and the first 400 donors will get a free Carowinds ticket. This is CBCCC’s third annual SCarowinds Blood Drive. The drive runs from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The SCarowinds Blood Drive will be located at 300 Carowinds Boulevard, Charlotte.

Six CBCCC Community Bloodmobiles will be at Carowinds for this Vein Drain blood drive. Registration will be held onsite. The first 400 presenting donors will receive one free SCarowinds admission ticket and a t-shirt as a thank you. Tickets are only available while supplies last and are first come first serve.

Blood donation requirements:

- Donors must be at least 16 years old. All 16-year-olds must have a signed parental consent form to donate.
- Donors must weigh at least 120 pounds.
- Donors must bring an officially issued photo ID.

To sign up for an email and/or text reminder, visit savinglocallives.com/carowinds.